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Page 2

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Title:

Please replace the Title with the following Title: Anti-HIV aptamers.

In the Specification:

please amend paragraph 013 as follows:

[0013] The nucleic acid can be either RNA or DNA, single or double stranded. Typically the nucleic acid molecules are 20-120 nucleotides in length. The nucleotides that form the nucleic acid can be chemically modified to increase the stability of the molecule, to improve its bioavailability or to confer additional activity on it. For example the pyrimidine purine bases may be modified at the 2, 6 or 8 positions, and pyrimidine purine bases at the 5 or 6 position with CH₃ or halogens such as I, Br or Cl. Modifications of pyrimidines bases also include position 2 modification with NH₃, O₆--CH₃, N₆--CH₃ and N₂--CH₃. Modifications at the 2' position are sugar modifications and include typically a NH₂, F or O CH₃ group. Modifications can also include 3' and 5' modifications such as capping.

Unmarked version of paragraph 0039:

[0013] The nucleic acid can be either RNA or DNA, single or double stranded. Typically the nucleic acid molecules are 20-120 nucleotides in length. The nucleotides that form the nucleic acid can be chemically modified to increase the stability of the molecule, to improve its bioavailability or to confer additional activity on it. For example the purine bases may be modified at the 2, 6 or 8 positions, and pyrimidine bases at the 5 or 6 position with CH₃ or halogens such as I, Br or Cl. Modifications of pyrimidines bases also include position 2 modification with NH₃, O₆--CH₃, N₆--CH₃ and N₂--CH₃. Modifications at the 2' position are sugar modifications and include typically a NH₂, F or O CH₃ group. Modifications can also include 3' and 5' modifications such as capping.